



Gayton CE Primary Academy

Policy on Safeguarding Children Walking To and From School

It is the policy for the school to seek written clarification from parents/carers in Y 5/6 who wish their child to walk to and from school independently.

Walking to School

At Gayton Primary School we understand that older children (Y 5/6) may walk to school independently of an adult where parents have made arrangements for them to do so. Parents therefore take an informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to school, even when they are not physically present.

Y 5/6 children walking to school independently should not arrive at school before 8.45am and should be at school no later than 8.50am. They should then go straight into the classroom. If the classroom is not open when they arrive, they should wait just outside the office and not wander around the school or village.

As the responsible body receiving children at the start of the day, the school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child is not at morning registration and no contact has been made by the parent to the school.

The school will, therefore, ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration. Please ensure that you are contactable by phone during this period and that the school has up to date contact information. With a least 3 contacts.

Where a child has not arrived at school and the parents/contacts cannot be contacted the school will immediately contact the police to report a missing child. The school's designated senior person for child protection will then be informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be followed.

Walking Home from School

Children who walk home alone are not permitted to stay and play on the school grounds after school. We would prefer that children walking independently walk directly home. We would then expect there to be a responsible adult at home when your child arrives.

If a child attends a club they must be picked up by **an adult** with parental consent.

If a club is cancelled, children will remain at school until the time the club was due to finish to be picked up by an adult unless the school has received a message confirming that their child may walk home.

The school maintains a register of those known children whose parents have made the request that their child is dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home independently. Any child walking home will be signed out in the Walking Home Register as they leave.

All parents and carers should discuss a 'back up plan' with their child to help them if they walk home and find the house empty or if they have walked home by mistake. This might include a spare key hidden somewhere, going to a neighbour's house, returning to school or phoning a responsible/designated adult.

If a child has left the school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instance to see if the child has left the school site. Please ensure you do this at the earliest possible opportunity. If the parent feels that a period of time has passed and their child has not arrived at home and that this is unusual or causing concern, the school recommends that the parent immediately calls the police to report their concern.

* The term parent/parents refers to any parent or carer who has responsibility for a given child.



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Walking to/from School Agreement

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this slip to school BEFORE a child is allowed to walk to school or home from school.

Name of child: Class: Year.....

Date:

I wish to inform you that I have discussed safety, behaviour and a 'back up plan' with my child and agree that they will be walking home independently.

Please read and tick each of the following statements. You will need to share them with your child.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the policy document "Safeguarding Children Walking To and From School" which is aimed at ensuring my child is safe. ☐

I understand that my child will be added to the Walking Home Register prior to leaving the school premises, if walking home independently. ☐

I understand that my child is not allowed to stay and play on the school grounds after school. ☐

I understand that if my child attends an after school club they must then be picked up by an adult with parental consent. ☐

I understand that I need to discuss and agree a 'back up plan' with my child as set out in the policy document. ☐

I understand that I need to call the school at the earliest opportunity if my child does not arrive home at the expected time. ☐

Signed: Print:(Parent) Date:.....

Signed:.....Print:(child) Date:.....

Please keep this copy at home



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I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the policy document "Safeguarding Children Walking To and From School" which is aimed at ensuring my child is safe. ☐

I understand that my child will be added to the Walking Home Register prior to leaving the school premises, if walking home independently. ☐

I understand that my child is not allowed to stay and play on the school grounds after school. ☐

I understand that if my child attends an after school club they must then be picked up by an adult with parental consent. ☐

I understand that I need to discuss and agree a 'back up plan' with my child as set out in the policy document. ☐

I understand that I need to call the school at the earliest opportunity if my child does not arrive home at the expected time. ☐

Signed: Print:(Parent) Date:.....

Signed:.....Print:(child) Date:.....

Please sign and return this copy to school